

FORT CLARK DISPATCH

Celebrating Fort Clark Life. Past, Present, & Future.

Volume 1 Issue 6

Autumn Is Here

Mac n Cheese COOKOFF contest

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
DICKMAN HALL LOUNGE

PEOPLE'S
CHOICE
\$50 CASH
PRIZE!



\$10 ENTRY FEE

DONATIONS
APPRECIATED!!!

TASTING FROM 6-7 PM
WINNER ANNOUNCED AT 7:15 PM

All you can eat!!!

To Register:

bwestbrook63@gmail.com or pat.steffensen@yahoo.com



PROCEEDS GO TO REPAIRS AND RESTORATION OF DICKMAN HALL LOUNGE

In This Issue...

Dispatch Staff

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Editor/Production/Staff Photographer

Suzanne Mayne

Writer/Staff Photographer

Teri Marsh

Writer

Jack Marsh

Writer

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Writer

If you would like to contact the Dispatch with comments and/or questions please email us at fcdispatch@fortclark.com. Be sure to put COMMENT in the subject line.

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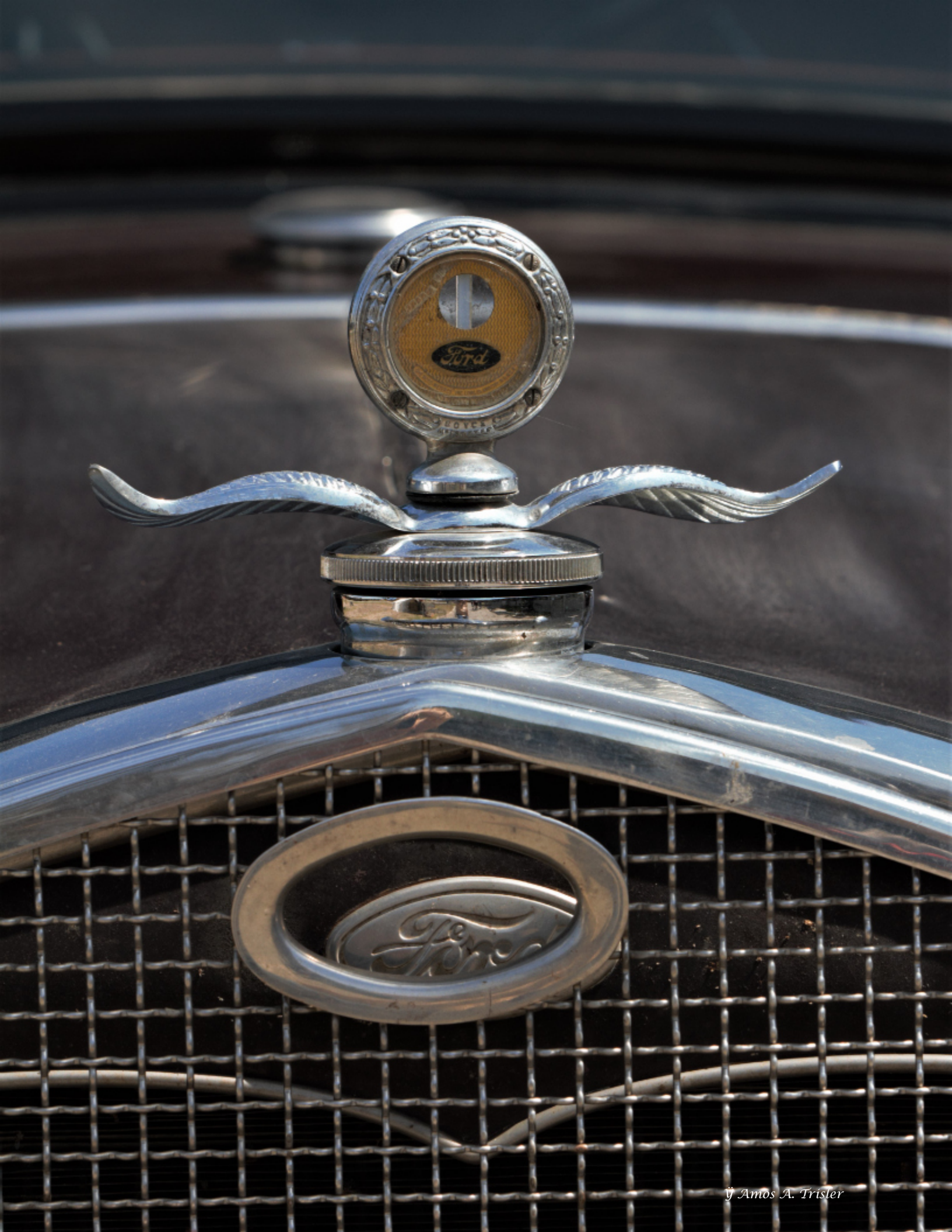
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From the Editor...

Well if you missed the fun we have a few images to show you what you missed. A lot of fun was had and maybe even a few people got scared. It also looked like we had a great turnout for Trick or Treating on the Fort as well. Excellent weather and having had to miss so much this time last year might have had a little to do with that. You don't appreciate those things until they are gone as the old adage says. Those adages are old adages because they ring true and have stood the test of time.

The big holiday this month is Thanksgiving Day. As someone who has had to miss a few of those due military service, and I was pretty lucky to only miss a couple, I can tell you to appreciate those times you can gather with family and friends. It is pretty common place for people to take for granted just how well off we really are here. Even when struggling Americans are often still the envy of people from many other parts of the world.

Just the other day I watched a video of a young lady who had defected from North Korea. She was trying an American Breakfast for the first time. To hear her talk about the food she was eating and comparing it to what little they had to eat in North Korea was humbling. Meat was something they maybe had once a year. She lived by the coast so fish was something she might have every month or two. Eggs were quite the rarity. If they managed to have one it was boiled. This lady was revealing in the things we take for granted as just part of what we can eat whenever we feel like it.

Let's also not forget thought that this month there is also Veteran's Day to celebrate. The contributions of those who have served this country since it's creation, from the smallest to those that have given way more than should be asked of a person are just one thing to keep in mind while you take a moment to reflect on things you are thankful for.

I'm an Army guy, but I did have two uncles who were Marines. One had been in the Korean War and later became an FBI agent. The other had been a Marine in Vietnam. So inter-service rivalries aside. (Active and Veterans do love to tease each other about the different branches.) I would like to offer a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the United States Marine Corp. The Marine Corp birthday is 10 November. The day before Veteran's Day. I've been invited to join in at a few celebrations and they always share the cake even if you weren't a Marine. So Happy Birthday, Marine Corp.

As the Fort Clark Dispatch develops there will be changes from time to time. There is a good possibility that we will start publishing the Dispatch on the 15th of the month starting in December. There have been several times when an event was being held early in the month that was just a few days after the event. One example is the Independence Day celebration that was held on July 3rd. The Dispatch with the full page listing events came out on the First which didn't give much notice for people to plan.

For those events that happen toward the end of the month, it seems anti-climactic to be reporting on those event when there is another big holiday being geared up for. This is especially true when you have big holidays at the end of October, November, and December. By publishing mid-month we can present the events from the end of the last month and be building up for the event or holiday towards the end of that month. It also works for early month events as well. So don't be surprised if the publication date changes to the 15th of the month.

Wandering Cats Update



by Teri Marsh and
Megan Vale



Wandering Cats is a recently formed local organization dedicated to developing a Trap-Neuter-Release (T-N-R) program in the Brackettville area. T-N-R is a humane method for controlling the feral and free roaming cat population. Led by founder Megan Vale, Wandering Cats has made significant progress towards this goal. Here is an update:

Humane traps acquired. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, Wandering Cats now owns six humane traps that will soon be put to use. Wandering Cats would like to thank The Bank and Trust, Ziggy's Roadside BBQ, DeeDee Brown of Starr Realty and Ranch, D & D Hardware, and MK Builders for sponsoring these acquisitions.

New website. Learn more about the Wandering Cats mission and opportunities to get involved at <https://www.wanderingcats.org/>. Here you can sign up to volunteer, donate online, or purchase popular Wandering Cats merchandise such as t-shirts and koozies with the awesome logo designed by local artist Gage Brown. You can also contact Wandering Cats at info@wanderingcats.org, or by mail at P.O. Box 14, Brackettville, TX 78832.

Volunteers and donations needed. An application for volunteers can be found on the website. A 60-minute online training will be required to familiarize volunteers with the T-N-R process. Volunteers needed include humane trappers, "Kitty cab drivers," and fundraising support. The website also features an Amazon Wishlist of needed items that can be donated. Wandering Cats has attained 501c3 status, so donations are now tax-deductible.

New vet relationship. Wandering Cats will be working with a vet in Boerne, Texas, which will provide a full range of needed services for \$50 per cat. This includes not only spaying or neutering, but also rabies, FVCRP vaccinations, pain medication/anesthesia, and ear-tipping. Where possible, Wandering Cats would appreciate a donation of \$25 per cat from citizens that identify a cat colony in need of T-N-R. This is not required and may not be possible for everyone, but would be very helpful.

Wandering Cats plans to begin the T-N-R process before year-end.

Fort Clark Naturals

The wild life with Suzanne Mayne

What wonderful weather we are having now as the first cool spell has come in. I remember why I love living in Fort Clark Springs about this time every year. Leaving the windows open, just the latched screen doors, our famous breezes...what could be better! Have you seen the Monarch butterflies coming through? It seems like they started a little early this season. If you walk the trails along Las Moras Creek in the late afternoon, you may meander in your own personal cloud of butterflies as you disturb them from the leaves on the ground in front of you. Notice how they gather in the oaks, hanging on small branches. You have to get the knack of seeing them as they are partially disguised in the twigs and leaves.

This is also the time of year to plant native wildflower seeds. If you have a patch of yard that doesn't seem to take well to grass, try scratching in wildflower seeds. Really spreading them directly on the dirt, lightly tamping them down and then watering the area is mostly all you need to do. If you wish, mix the seeds with some sand then, sow in your patch. Mark out that area in your yard so you don't mow them down in the spring as they begin to grow. You will think "What are those weeds growing there?" and cut them down if you don't have some markers out.

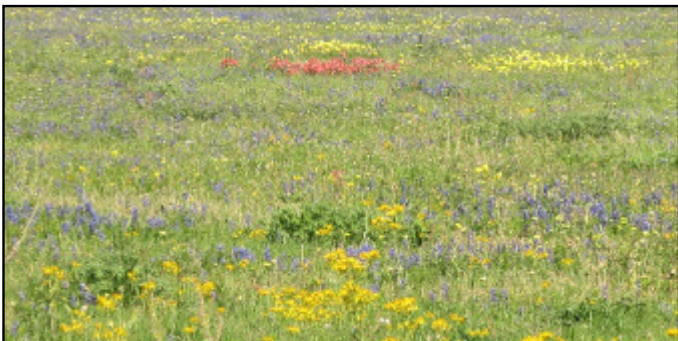


Texas is fortunate to have several home-grown wildflower seed companies from which you can buy single species packets or a mixture of different wildflower or focus on mixes specifically for bee or butterfly attraction, i.e., pollinator mixes.

This is also the time of year the leaves begin changing colors. As you drive between here and I-10 through the Hill Country, there are a variety of trees whose foliage will change to yellows, reds or golds: sumac, red oak, walnut, sycamore, maple, cypress, and cottonwood trees, even some vines will have red or gold leaves. The cypress trees lining many of the spring-fed creeks in the Hill Country are especially beautiful as their leaves turn a golden brown.

Here in Brackettville and Fort Clark Springs, there are some oaks that turn gorgeous shades of red and gold when the cool fronts hit just right. Along Las Moras Creek, you can see a variety of different leaf colors as well as interesting dried seed heads, pods and berries.

Go on... get the camera, binoculars, take some weekend drives, get up to the state parks, walk through our green spaces, enjoy the cooler weather and maybe pack a picnic lunch or afternoon snack and always, plenty of water. I'll see you out there!



Photos by Suzanne Mayne

For more information on Fort Clark Hiking Trails: Look online at www.fortclark.com, under the Recreation drop down menu, click on *Hiking/Biking Trails*. There you will find the different designated trails, totaling over 15 miles.

★ Where the Real Stars Gather... ★

Story and PhotPhotos by

November has several interesting night sky events, including meteor showers and a partial lunar eclipse. So, gather your family and friends and check out the night sky. Events for November include:

Nov 2-3” South Taurid Meteor Shower peak. This meteor shower is active from mid-September to mid-November. Typically, you can see 5 meteors per hour.

Nov 4: There is a Super New Moon on the evening of November 4th. The use of the term “super moon” means refers to the moon being at its closest approach to the Earth. There will be nothing at all to see of the moon, as it is new but it is interesting to think of this event just the same.

Nov 6-30: Leonid Meteor Shower between November 6th and 30th. The peak is during the



night of November 16th into the early morning, before sunrise, of the 17th. This meteor show can have up to 10-15 meteors per hour or 1 every 4-6 minutes or so.

Nov 8: At dusk in the southwestern sky, observe the planet Venus in close association with the waxing crescent moon. This is often a beautiful sight as the sky may sometimes have some faint glow remaining from sunset.

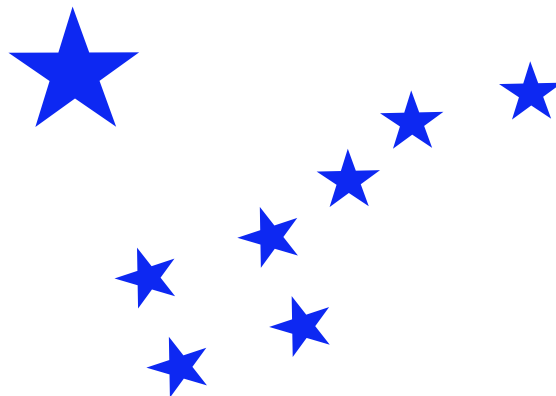
Nov 11-12: North Taurid Meteor Shower peak. Active from late October through mid-December. Similar to the South Taurid Meteor Shower, only 5 or so meteors per hour.

Nov 16-17: Leonid Meteor Shower peak during the evening through early morning.

Nov 19: Micro Full Moon. When the moon is full or new at its farthest from the Earth, it is called a micro moon. This Micro Full Moon is also called the Beaver Moon or Frost Moon in the Northern Hemisphere.

Nov 19: Partial Lunar Eclipse. On Friday November 19th, in the wee hours of the morning, the eclipse begins at 12:02 am. Maximum coverage is at 3:02 am and the eclipse ends at 6:03 am. Part of the Full Moon’s visible surface moves into the dark part of the Earth’s shadow. This is the last eclipse of 2021.

Check it out: From time to time we will post useful sites for knowing what is going on in the sky, from planetary to cosmic events and even various space craft, rocket or satellite launch events, so be sure and look through past issues of the Dispatch to find the list.



Ramblin Jack

By Jack Marsh

The Many Lives of an Old Fort Part III Black Seminoles - continued

Having just returned from an RV trip to several states along the east coast, the wife and I passed through areas long ago controlled by a surprisingly large number of Native American tribes of which I was largely unfamiliar. Having grown up in Texas and a fan of all those John Wayne movies and stories of U.S. cavalry fighting those iconic western tribes of Native Americans - Comanche, Apache, Navajo, Cheyenne, Sioux and the like – it was surprising to learn that there are close to 50 tribes included in the category of Eastern Woodlands Indian, all situated close to the east coast. The main tribes in the southern zone of Eastern Woodlands include the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole tribes.

Note: This is the latest in a series of articles concerning the historical relationship between Fort Clark and Black Seminoles. The main source material here is from the Jeff Guinn book, *Our Land Before We Die*.

The relationship that evolved between the Seminole Indians and Blacks in Florida during the late 18th century worked against the interests of White settlers, plantation owners and slave traders. The Blacks that had become part of the Seminole community were considered property of White owners, no different than cattle or chickens, so the U.S. government first demanded the Seminole return that “property” to their White owners. When that didn’t work, the government decided it would be in its best interest to separate the Seminole from Blacks by getting the Seminole out of Florida.

Thomas Jefferson had originally devised a plan to move all Native Americans from the east, and send them west of the Mississippi, and in 1830 Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act. The most infamous result of this act was the removal of Cherokees from the Carolinas which became known as the Trail of Tears. The removal of the Seminole would not be as straightforward, as the tribe had learned

over time not to trust the U.S. government’s word on anything. Part of the reason they resisted the move had to do with the fact that agents for the government planned to force the Seminole Blacks back into slavery following the removal of their protectors.

In 1836 things got complicated when, during negotiations with government agents, several Seminole chiefs suddenly agreed to relocate. But the most senior chief, Osceola, threatened to kill anyone attempting to leave Florida, and long story short, a brutal war commenced known as the Second Seminole War. In its early days of the fighting, the battles were dominated by Seminoles, and the U.S. military resorted to the recruitment of Creek Indians to assist them in the fight, which only made the Seminoles fight that much harder. At one point, the three main Seminole leaders, Osceola, Wild Cat and John Horse (leader of the Black Seminoles) were captured and sent to St. Augustine, where Osceola got sick and died in captivity. Wild Cat and John Horse managed to escape to continue the fight. Even Zachary Taylor and the U.S. Navy got involved in the war before it was over. The war lasted seven years, the longest in American history next to Viet Nam, and cost \$20 million (the purchase of Florida from the Spanish had cost only \$5 million).

As part of the negotiations to end the war, the government had agreed to grant the Black Seminole their freedom if they would stop fighting and peaceably move to Indian Territory. But once the move had been completed, the Seminole continued to insist that the Blacks who had moved with them were their property, and the Creeks who greeted them attempted to lord over both groups. Complicating matters further, when the government showed up in the Territory to work out a solution, white citizens in Arkansas and Missouri complained about potentially having free Blacks so close to their borders. For the government, the big question became: What to do with the Black Seminole?

To be continued

RV PARK BREAKFAST

The RV Park is starting up their
Saturday Morning Breakfasts.

Starting When: October 30, 2021

(Every Saturday Until Further Notice)

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Where: RV Park Kitchen

Cost: \$6.00

Menu: Eggs, Sausage, Pancakes,
Orange Juice and Coffee



Trails

Starting Friday, October 1st, 2021,

All trails will be closed down,

Dusk to dawn

Signs will be posted

Thank you!



Photo by Suzanne Mayne

Prose & Poetry

© Amos A. Trisler

Nanci Griffith is again singing in her soulful way through my headphones as I set here, making words of the button strokes I apply to the keyboard of my laptop. I haven't a clue what I am going to write about. I'm not sure I even care. There is just this strong urge, need even, to write, to feel the keys depressing, clicking, springing up, and somehow, to send a little of my own self to the file that will result. Isn't that the way of life so often? That we pour out so much of what is in us only to have it just pass into some file somewhere? Maybe someone will see it? Maybe they won't. Just how important is it if they do or don't? This gets me thinking. About creating, giving, and receiving.

Some would say that when someone gives of something from within themselves others should see and recognize the gift and make a show of appreciation. I can understand the idea behind that. If we spent more time recognizing the gifts that come in so many intangible ways, appreciating both the uniqueness of gift and giver, we might all be a little closer. As long as our motives are not selfish. As giver or receiver. When people give expecting nothing in return that is a gift to giver's soul. When we receive such a gift and make insincere comments that is a self-inflicted wound on our own.

It is almost cliche that the greatest gift a person can give is that of themselves. But how do you recognize such gifts? The big givers, the heroes, the volunteers in hyper-drive are usually raised up as the prime examples of gifts of self. I don't want to take away honors that are well deserved, for the above are truly deserving of more appreciation than they sometimes receive. However, what about the many little gifts that we take for granted and never truly honor?

Have you ever felt just a little more alone in the cold world than usual and had someone take a moment just to share something with you? Perhaps just a hug at the right time. Maybe it was just a cartoon from the paper that they thought you would get a chuckle out of. Someone saw something and they thought of you. Not the mailman, the clerk at the store, or anyone else. They thought of you. Such an act isn't a grand act in any other way than the fact that another person took a moment of their own life to give a thought to you and yours. Sometimes that that can feel like the grandest gift of all.

How do you react when someone gives you such a gift? Have you just looked at it and give a quick grin saying, "Oh, that's cute", and not given it a second thought? Most probably the giver never expected any more than that. Yet this person has taken a few moment out of their own life to show you that they feel you are worth thinking of.

What if on the end of "Oh, that's cute." you just added "I really appreciate that you thought enough to share that with me."?

Deep Creek Experience

We came.
We saw.
We jumped in.
The crystal waters rushed over us.
Small trout looked upon yet another
group of refugees from the cluttered confusion
that is human existence.

We laughed.
The laughter racing along the boulders
and craggy rock faces that wrapped about us.
The storytellers of ancient history.
Some had felt a moments freedom
as they left the rim,
to reach the canyon floor.

We gazed,
with awe at the towering Ponderosa,
Reaching towards the bright sun.
Students of the rocks on which they perched,
Holding with a root in this crack,
a small hold there,
a precarious hold to shame the most ardent rock climber.

We sat in silence.
Overwhelmed by the extremeness of the intensity.
Washed over by a feeling of utter insignificance.
Then, from deep inside ourselves, a voice.
That which is our true self spoke,
and we knew we had long been out of touch.
and we vowed to become better companions, ourselves and us.

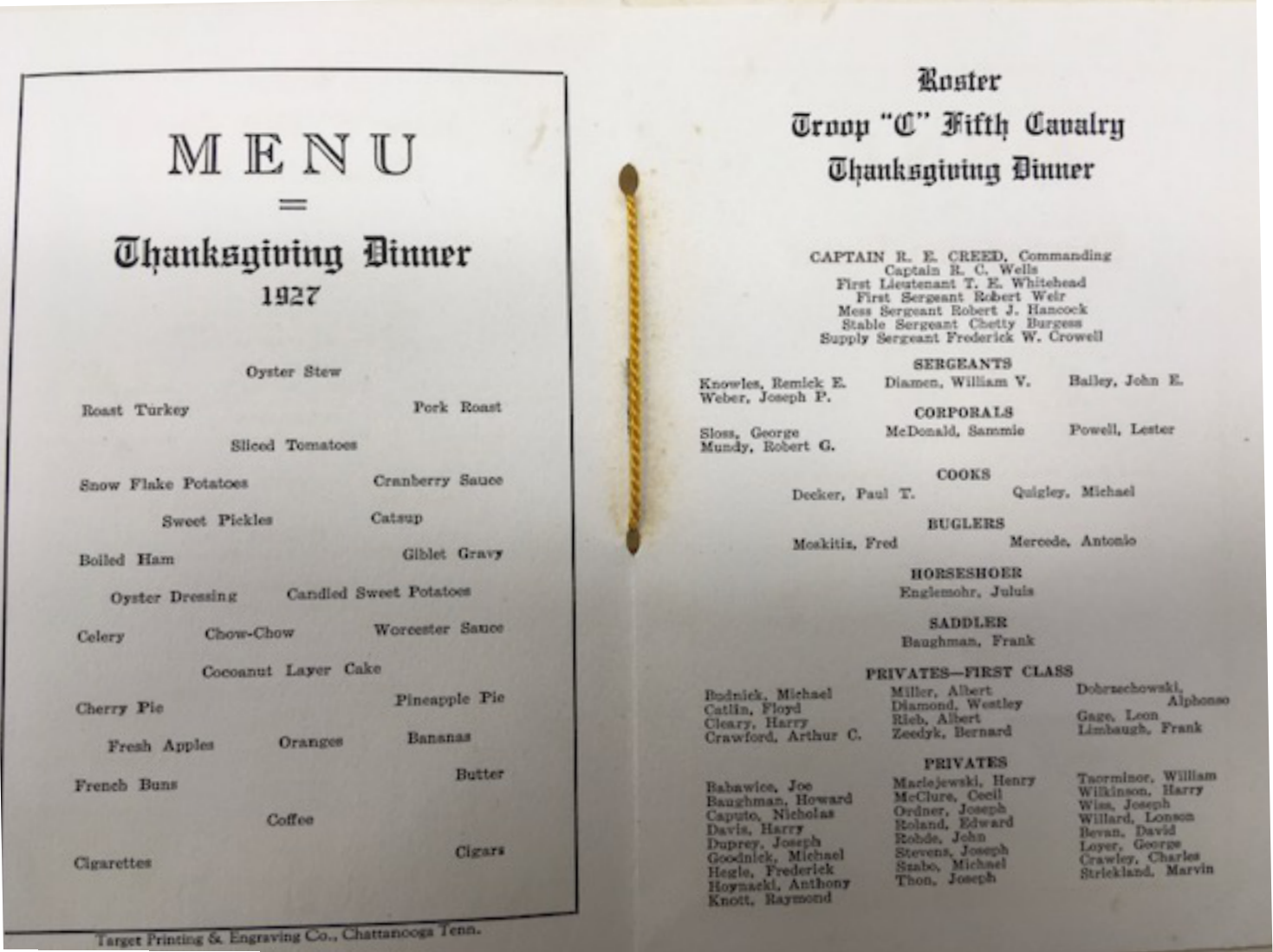
The Revelations of Deep Creek
26, 27 July 1986

Welcome to a new feature. Prose & Poetry. This will be a section where you, the readers can contribute your creative writings. For prose, please keep it to 2-4 pages in length at 12 Point type. The piece I have included is around what we can handle.

For both prose and poetry please keep it clean and non-political. Spiritual is fine, just not preachy. Also make sure it is your work. All copyright remains with the author. Submission of your work to the Fort Clark Dispatch, simply extends license to publish your piece in the Dispatch.

If you would like to contribute please send your work as an attachment to:
fcdisatch@fortclark.com and put Prose & Poetry in the subject line.

Writer's guidelines can be found here on the following page. Exceptions to the word limit will be allowed for prose for this section. Within reason. There are standards so Staff will have final selection of what it printed. There may also be delays due to production cycle and space.



M E N U
=
Thanksgiving Dinner
1927

Oyster Stew		
Roast Turkey		Pork Roast
Sliced Tomatoes		
Snow Flake Potatoes		Cranberry Sauce
Sweet Pickles		Catsup
Boiled Ham		Giblet Gravy
Oyster Dressing		Candied Sweet Potatoes
Celery	Chow-Chow	Worcester Sauce
Cocoanut Layer Cake		
Cherry Pie		Pineapple Pie
Fresh Apples	Oranges	Bananas
French Buns		Butter
	Coffee	
Cigarettes		Cigars

Roster
Troop "C" Fifth Cavalry
Thanksgiving Dinner

CAPTAIN R. E. CREED, Commanding
 Captain R. C. Wells
 First Lieutenant T. E. Whitehead
 First Sergeant Robert Weir
 Mess Sergeant Robert J. Hancock
 Stable Sergeant Chetty Burgess
 Supply Sergeant Frederick W. Crowell

SERGEANTS

Knowles, Remick E.	Diamen, William V.	Bailey, John E.
Weber, Joseph P.		

CORPORALS

Sloss, George	McDonald, Sammie	Powell, Lester
Mundy, Robert G.		

COOKS

Decker, Paul T.	Quigley, Michael
-----------------	------------------

BUGLERS

Moskitis, Fred	Mercede, Antonio
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HORSESHOER

Englemohr, Julius

SADDLER

Baughman, Frank

PRIVATE—FIRST CLASS

Boznick, Michael	Miller, Albert	Dobrzecowski, Alphonso
Catlin, Floyd	Diamond, Westley	Gage, Leon
Cleary, Harry	Rieb, Albert	Limbaugh, Frank
Crawford, Arthur C.	Zedyk, Bernard	

PRIVATE

Babawice, Joe	Maclejewski, Henry	Tacornor, William
Baughman, Howard	McClure, Cecil	Wilkinson, Harry
Caputo, Nicholas	Ordner, Joseph	Wiss, Joseph
Davis, Harry	Roland, Edward	Willard, Lonson
Duprey, Joseph	Robde, John	Bevan, David
Goodnick, Michael	Stevens, Joseph	Loyer, George
Hegle, Frederick	Stabo, Michael	Crawley, Charles
Hoymacki, Anthony	Thon, Joseph	Strickland, Marvin
Knott, Raymond		

Target Printing & Engraving Co., Chattanooga Tenn.

Photo by Julie Moreno

This year as you sit down to Thanksgiving Dinner, be it simple or a full blown feast here is something to consider. The above image is of the Thanksgiving day menu for Troop C of the Fifth Cavalry stationed here at Fort Clark. It does look like they went all out. Such a thing is important for troop morale. A special treat and break from the usual simple fare. Remember that the start of this country and for all the years since men and women have been away from their homes in service to their country on holidays known for bringing families together. Ask any Veteran and they can probably tell you of Thanksgivings, Christmas Days, and other holidays they have spent away from home in places far and near.

Remember Veteran's Day
November 11th.

Fort Clark Dispatch Writer's Guidelines

These are the basic guidelines for articles submitted to the Fort Clark Dispatch. This will simplify submissions, acceptance, and facilitate timely production of the Dispatch

- Subject area is pretty open. Ideally it should relate to life on the fort and/or the surrounding community. History, lifestyles past and present, and recreational opportunities are encouraged. If your story is medically or health related please discuss it with the editorial staff first. Articles that inform about and celebrate the surrounding area are encouraged. How to and DIY articles are another area. Just keep in mind that it needs to fit in a small print area and be something many people can do with basic skills.
- Word count is generally limited to 600 words or less. Preferably at least a 450 word count. Some exceptions can be made for longer articles depending on the subject, relevancy, and/or significant benefit to the readers. These must be discussed and approved prior to final submission by the editorial staff. There may be allowances for How to/DIY stories with heavy illustration.
- Articles need to be submitted in either as a Word document, Open Office Document, or as a straight text (.txt) file.
- Preferably in Times New Roman, 12 pt, regular. Please do not use any fancy formatting. Block paragraphs (no indenting), a single line break between paragraphs. Italicizing something like a book title, etc., is acceptable and encouraged.
- Please check spelling and grammar before submitting. It reduces the frequency of migraines by the proofreaders. We get more work out of them that way.
- While subject areas are open and we welcome a variety of topics we also are striving for a lifestyle and entertainment mission. As such, submissions that are inflammatory, show extreme bias, or seek to push a political, religious, or otherwise divisive slant or agenda will be rejected. We certainly respect everyone's right to their most fervent positions, opinions, and beliefs. Many on the magazine have those that they feel strongly about. It just doesn't fit the mission or the purpose of the Fort Clark Dispatch.
- All submissions will be considered. Final approval of submissions will be made by the editorial which consists of the Editor, Executive Admin, and the General Manager.

We look forward to and encourage ideas and article submissions. If you want to see if we would make a good fit please feel free to attend out weekly staff meetings. Meetings are held at 1:30 PM in the Board Room at the Admin building.

Submissions and queries about submitting can be emailed to fdispatch@fortclark.com. Please put the words ARTICLE SUBMISSION in the subject line. Thank you for your interest in being part of the growing world of the Fort Clark Dispatch.

Submissions are due by the end of the first week of the month.

Golf Cart Parade & Ghostly Tours



The first to brave the journey of the Ghostly Tours prepares to depart. I don't know if they were ever seen again.



The food that feeds the nightmares were seen on the streets of Fort Clark. I worry about Snoopy though in such a crowd. Whatever became of him?

Photos by Amos Trisler

NOTES FROM THE RECYCLE CENTER

by Helena McBride

Everyone at FCSA should try to recycle. From 2016 to 2020, we kept 212 tons of trash out of the landfill. Bring us # 1 plastic, # 2 plastic, aluminum cans, steel cans, office paper, and mixed paper. We're open Thursdays 4 to 6 and Saturdays 8:30 to 12.

Look for the triangle on the bottom of the item. If its # 1 or # 2 bring it. Do NOT bring # 5 (yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, dishwasher tablets, nutrition drinks, some yellow medicine bottles). Take off caps, lids, handles, then rinse. Crush big items.

1 Plastic: water bottles, clear plastic from fruits & veggies.

We don't want the caps or lids or handles.

#2 Plastic has 2 different boxes, one is Colored Plastic, the other is "Natural Plastic." Some # 1 plastic is black or dark, you can't see through it. Put into the box marked Colored Plastic. Natural Plastic is regular milk, #2 vinegar, cat litter containers. Step on these big items to crush them to make them smaller.

Aluminum cans: beer & soda cans & large cat food cans. No aluminum foil or pie pans.

Steel or Tin Cans: veggie & soup cans, and small cat food cans

Office paper: white or colored paper that go into a printer. Bills or hand-written paper, post-it notes or shredded office paper is good. No construction thick paper, no shredded magazines, no business envelopes with the plastic front.

Mixed Paper: broth & waxed juice containers, newspapers, magazines, shredded magazines, boxes from beer & soda, telephone books. No deer food or dog food bags that have a plastic coating.

No glass, corrugated cardboard, or plastic bags. Cardboard should be flattened and put out with trash on Monday morning. Maintenance bales it, the Fort gets money for the bales.

Please Do NOT drop off items at the Recycle gate. We have to pick up your stuff. Its good if you separate your items at home, This allows you to move quickly & you don't keep the cars behind you waiting to do their drop offs.

Volunteers, Please Note: when the plastic bottles reach the top of the trash can, remove the black plastic bag, and continue to fill it up. The bags are costly so please fill them completely. Tie the bag tightly so it doesn't spill and bring it outside. Maintenance takes them and makes bales of the plastic.

THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR DOING LOTS OF WORK, especially in the hot summer. Joe builds & organizes the boxes, & runs the forklift, Helena schedules volunteers, organizes paperwork, writes & reports to the Board. Volunteers are Pat, Phil, Memo, Valada, Tim, Mary P, Kathi, Wanda, Lori, John B, John W, Diana, Vida, Linda & John, MaryJane & Dennis, Bob, Viola, Pam, Barbara, Natanya, Phoenix, Griffen, Maria and Helena.

FORT CLARK

STILL NEEDS

YOU!

FORT CLARK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR A VARIETY OF PROJECTS AROUND THE FORT.

As members of the community there are many things large and small that you can do to help out while making Fort Clark a better place to live and play.

I might be as simple as volunteering a little time to go through some of the restrooms and change out the aerators in the sinks. Or painting a few benches.

Or you may be one of those people who have advanced

To volunteer or to find out how you can help please contact:

skills and years of experience in a particular field. Your help could move along projects on the fort that are stalled or moving much slower due to shortages of manpower and/or specific skills needed.

From the simple set of extra hands to sharing your hard earned skills and experience.

Fort Clark needs YOU!

Thank you for reading this issue of the Fort Clark Dispatch. We hope you enjoyed it and will visit with us each month.

The Dispatch is a monthly online magazine that is available on the first of each month.



Red Bridge when the water is up and flowing well. We are lucky to have such a peaceful and lovely place as Red Bridge Park here on the Fort. Just one of many spots to revel in a natural space. *Photo by Amos Trisler*

To contact the magazine with comments, questions, or to volunteer, please email:

fcdispatch@fortclark.com

Please put “Comment”, “Question”, or “Volunteer” in the subject line. This will help us keep it separate from submissions and administrative emails.

On the back cover:

An experimental photo taken of the surface of Las Moras Creek near the swimming pool overflow. Taken with a slower shutter speed the only things done were cropping and fine tuning the exposure using just the simple, native Windows photo editor.

Photo by Amos Trisler



FORT CLARK SPRINGS ASSOCIATION, INC.

2021/2022

HUNTING RULES & GUIDELINES

Welcome to Fort Clark Springs! Thank you for joining us this season. The safety and wellbeing of hunters, animals and residents is the #1 priority of Fort Clark Springs Association. FCSA reserves the right to deny any individual authorization to hunt. The hunting experience at Fort Clark Springs is quite unique and is considered to be Residential/Urban Hunting. Fort Clark Springs is approximately 2,700 acres of low fenced property. All animals are free-range and roam the property at will. Hunters will be hunting in wooded areas surrounded by residential and recreational areas. While hunting you may hear vehicular, aviation, gun range activity and/or pedestrian traffic. FCSA is a private homeowner's association, and has numerous hiking and recreation trails that are active year-round. Certain areas have been designated for hunting. Certain bow hunting takes place in areas near hiking and recreational trails that are not closed off from pedestrian access. The wildlife live and thrive in an urban residential environment, and are used to the everyday sounds you may hear during your hunting experience. **DO NOT EXPECT YOUR HUNTING EXPERIENCE TO BE IN A QUIET OR SECLUDED AREA.**

Please read these guidelines carefully and initial where appropriate. You will be asked to sign below.

_____ I am a member of Fort Clark Springs Association (Please check if yes).

Member: Is defined for this particular event and rules as any individual who has been a current member of FCSA for at least 1 full year which entitles them to member rates.

Non-FCSA Member: Is defined for this particular event and rules as any individual who is not a current member of FCSA or has a current membership of less than 1 full year. Individuals in this category cannot receive Member benefits until they meet those qualifications.

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- **All hunting on FCSA property is in accordance with FCSA Rules & Regulations and current FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines.** The FCSA Executive Officer or their designated agent will act as the Hunting Supervisor.
 - No one is allowed to hunt on FCSA property without the permission of the property owner. Anyone found to be hunting on FCSA property without the property owner's consent or outside of the perimeter of this set of Rules & Guidelines will be considered POACHING and will be subject to any and all penalties, fines or legal action as deemed necessary.
 - FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines and deer harvest availability are subject to change at any given time, depending upon the recommendations of Texas Parks & Wildlife, the FCSA Hunting Supervisor or at the discretion of the Property Owner.
 - The Property Owner will set the hunting pricing and hunting dates.

- All FCSA members must be in “Good Standing” before they are able to hunt and are required to follow all of the Hunting Rules & Guidelines herein.
- All hunters must contact FCSA Admin. Office for booking and reservations prior hunting. Hunters are not allowed to hunt without placement of the Hunting Supervisor.
- Non-Member Hunters will be priority in scheduling and placement over members.

PLEASE INITIAL BELOW:

_____ FCSA does not guarantee that any hunter will see or harvest any animal.

_____ It is the responsibility of the hunter and his/her guests to know the following property owner’s Hunting Rules & Guidelines as well as all state game laws prior to hunting.

_____ **MEDIA RELEASE:** All photo/video captured by FCSA personnel or their representative of hunters and their harvested animals is the property of FCSA to be used solely for the purposes of promotional material and publications. The hunter waives all rights of compensation or ownership thereof and grants a digital media release.

Fees, Penalties and Fines

- All fees, penalties and/or fines are at the discretion of the property owner or their designated agent. Violations of game laws will be enforced by state Game Wardens.
- **FEES:**
 - **Fees: \$200** per day with a two (2) doe (Axis or Whitetail) per day limit, all FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines apply. Any buck other than a Whitetail “Cull” Buck shot (wounded or harvested) will incur an additional buck fee.
 - **Axis Bucks: \$2,500.00** (limited to 28 to 34 inches, additional inches above 34” will be an additional \$100/inch) Longest main beam will apply. In addition, any antlerless (shed) or velvet horned Axis deer weighing 150 + lbs. will also incur a \$2,500.00 fee. Axis Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$2,500.00.
 - **Axis Buck Hard-horned (only) 16-28 inches longest main beam, \$1,500.00.** Axis Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$1,500.00.
 - **Axis Buck Hard-horned (only) 6-16 inches longest main beam, \$750.00.** Axis Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$750.00.
 - **Axis “Juvenile” Buck: Hard-horned (only) 1-6 inches longest main beam,** Bucks in this category will be counted same as a doe. Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will count the same as if harvested.
 - **Additional Doe: \$100/doe (Axis or Whitetail).**
 - **Whitetail Bucks: \$1,500.00** Any buck shot (with the exception of Whitetail ‘Cull’ Bucks) regardless of age/size by any hunter (member/non-member) will incur a \$1,500.00 fee. All Whitetail Deer must be 3 ½ years of age or older. Whitetail

Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will incur said trophy fee of \$1,500.00.

- **Whitetail ‘Cull’ Buck: Hard-horned (only)** Spike or Cow Horned Bucks (depending upon availability of MLDP tags.) will be considered same as a doe. All Whitetail Deer must be 3 ½ years of age or older. Bucks in this category that are shot, wounded and/or not retrieved will count the same as if harvested.
 - **Whitetail Deer (Bucks or Doe must be 3 ½ years of age or older).** Whitetail Deer younger than 3 ½ yrs. of age shot (wounded or harvested) will incur a penalty fee of \$300.00
 - **Turkey:** included in day fee pricing. Must meet Texas Game Law Regulations.
 - **Javelina:** included in day fee pricing. Must meet Texas Game Law Regulations.
 - **Feral Hog:** no additional fee, hunter incentive offered (read below)
 - **Predator Animals (Coyote, Bobcat, Fox):** no additional fee, hunter incentive offered (read below)
 - **Other exotic animals:** fee at property owner’s discretion.
- **FERAL HOG/PREDATOR ANIMAL HUNTER INCENTIVE:** Upon successful proof of harvest, a non-member hunter will be awarded an additional day hunt to compensate for assisting in hog/predator management. Members may volunteer to hunt hogs/predator animals at no charge with prior coordination from hunting supervisor.
 - **There will be no night hunting for non-members.**
 - Hunters who kill animals that they cannot pay for forfeit the animal to FCSA, and all additional hunts will be forfeited without refund. Any penalties, fines or other legal action will be at the discretion of the property owner.
 - Hunters are not allowed to tamper, alter, damage or destroy any FCSA property including vehicles, hunting equipment, blinds or feeders. Individuals caught doing so will be in breach of this agreement and all penalties and/or fines as well as criminal charges will apply.

Wounded Animal Policy

Any animal that is shot (wounded or killed), all rules, fees, penalties and/or fines will apply. This policy applies regardless of whether the animal is retrieved or not.

Protected Species

FCSA is home to the federally protected Blue Indigo Snake. All federal laws apply; no one is allowed to kill, harm, harass or try to catch or obtain possession of this snake. Violators will be prosecuted.

Booking/Refunds/Rescheduling/Transfers/ “No Call, No Show”

- **100% of hunting fees are payable at the time of booking.**
- Cancellations or reschedule requests occurring 10 days prior to scheduled hunt date will receive a full refund or payment transfer. Rescheduling is based on availability.
- If a cancellation is made less than 10 days before the scheduled hunt, 50% of the booking fee may be returned only if notification is given prior to the hunt. (see below)
- No Call-No Shows will not be given a refund.
- If you make arrangements with an alternate hunter to fill your space, it is up to you to collect, recover or exchange fees. FCSA will not participate in this type of transfer, hunters are welcome to try to fill your spot in the event that you can not make your hunt.
- Hunters will not tag Whitetail deer with their own deer tags. MLDP tags will be provided.
- All hunting will only take place in blinds and in areas that are designated by the Property Owner. **Trophy hunting will take place in blinds only.** There will be no guided trophy hunts.

CHECK-IN AND HUNTING PROCEDURES

- All hunters must check in at the FCSA Old Motor Pool Building for briefing.
- Morning hunt check in time: 5:00am
- Afternoon hunt check-in time: 3pm
- **LATE ARRIVALS MAY NOT BE SEATED.**
- All hunters must sign a Liability Release, Authorization of Medical Treatment, and Hunting Rules & Guidelines before they are able to hunt. All paperwork must be accomplished prior to the hunt.
- Hunters must notify hunting supervisor prior to any hunt of any medical, physical or mental conditions that may inhibit, impair or put others in jeopardy or danger while on FCSA property.
- All hunters must have a valid Texas Parks & Wildlife Hunting License.
- FCSA will enforce Texas Hunters Education requirements:

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting.

- **All persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.**
- There will be no smoking, alcoholic beverages, animals (pets) or littering allowed while hunting.
- It is the hunter's responsibility to ensure their hunting equipment is in good working order prior to hunting. It is the hunter's responsibility to come prepared for the hunt, this includes both equipment and proper clothing.

- If a hunter needs to sight-in or validate their rifle zero, hunter may coordinate with the hunting supervisor prior to their day hunt to do so at the FCSA gun range.
- The Hunting Supervisor will determine hunter placement.
- **RIFLE HUNTERS** will be allowed to drive their personal vehicle to a designated parking area and then walk to their designated blind. Hunting or wandering outside of the blind is not permitted.
- **BOW HUNTERS** may be escorted out to their designated blinds by FCSA personnel. **Bow hunters will only be allowed to hunt in elevated tree (ladder stands only) stands under the following guidelines:**
 - It is the responsibility of the bow hunter to bring his/her own equipment (ladder stand). The proper safety equipment will be required to be working at all times by bow hunters while they are hunting in elevated tree stands of any type.
 - The hunting supervisor will tell the bow hunter where he/she is allowed to place the stand.
 - The stand may be put up the day before the bow hunter's scheduled hunt and must be taken down and removed the day after their hunt.
- All weapons will be unloaded (no rounds in the chamber) with "safety on" placing weapons (barrel) in a safe direction away from other individuals when traveling to and from designated hunting blinds.
- **HUNTING / SHOOTING IS ONLY ALLOWED IN FCSA DESIGNATED BLINDS AND/OR TREE STANDS WITHIN THE DESIGNATED HUNTING AREAS AS PRESCRIBED BY FCSA.** Any hunter caught hunting outside of these permitted areas will not be allowed to continue hunting for the rest of the season and/or future hunts on FCSA property and are subject to penalties and fines.
- **"SPOT AND STALK" OR SHOOTING FROM VEHICLES IS NOT AUTHORIZED.**
- All ground blinds will be equipped with 2 chairs, any additional chairs will be at the responsibility of the hunter. If more than one individual is hunting out of the same blind, each individual will be paying as an individual hunter.
- Hunters will be allowed to only hunt with the weapon (Rifle or bow/ crossbow) that they scheduled to hunt with. Changing weapons during a hunt will require prior permission from the Hunting Supervisor.
- FCSA personnel will maintain hunting blinds and feeders. Hunters will be allowed to bring and distribute their own corn or attractants while hunting.
- All hunters must shoot in the direction given (from the blind directly to feeder) when they are assigned a blind. No shooting across or outside of blind boundaries will be tolerated. No target practicing or unauthorized shooting is allowed. No shooting skyward (upward) or through/into trees or treetops will be permitted.
 - Rifle Blinds: distance from blind-to-feeder is approximately 50-100 yards.
 - Bow Blinds: distance from blind-to-feeder is approximately 20-30 yards.

- Hunters may use rattling horns and/or mouth or hand held devices to lure deer or turkey while they are hunting.
- **Upon shooting an animal, the hunter will immediately call and notify the Hunting Supervisor. All animals will be required to be seen by the Hunter Supervisor before processing and/or leaving FCSA property.**
- **Do not attempt to track or wonder around looking for wounded animals without FCSA personnel present.**
- At approximately 10:00am, all hunters will leave their designated blinds and head back in with FCSA personnel at different designated locations as assigned by the hunting supervisor. It is at that time the hunters will declare and register the animals that have been harvested during the morning hunt. All Whitetail deer will be registered and tagged by FCSA personnel. MLDP tags will be provided. Hunters will not tag any Whitetail deer.
- Afternoon hunters will repeat the check in process at the time set by the hunting supervisor.
- FCSA will make a cleaning area available for hunters. **NO FIELD DRESSING ALLOWED.**
- Cleaning and animal processing is the responsibility of the hunter. The hunter may ask a FCSA volunteer to help with the processing or cleaning of the animal, but it will be at the discretion of the volunteer. Volunteers are not obligated to assist hunters. The volunteer may ask for compensation for their assistance. The transactions are solely between the hunter and the volunteer – FCSA is not responsible for any agreements or transactions made between a hunter and volunteer.
- Any hunter who does not follow the FCSA Hunting Rules & Guidelines or fails to declare or register any harvested animal by any means will be subject to immediate action by the property owner. Action including fines up to \$1,500.00 per incident and/or violation may be accessed at the discretion of the property owner.
- **FCSA is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged property.**

AXIS TROPHY RAFFLE

All registered FCSA hunters will be placed into a drawing for an Axis Trophy Hunt. In order to qualify for the raffle entry:

- The hunter must have hunted a day hunt during the 2021-2022 hunting season.
- Only the registered hunter’s name will be entered into the drawing (valid upon paid receipt).
- If the registered hunter is paying for other individuals to hunt, it will be at the discretion of the paying registered hunter which names will be entered into the drawing.
- Each paid hunt qualifies for a raffle entry.
- Cancellations or refunds disqualify the hunter from the drawing entry.
- Violations of state Game Laws or FCSA Rules & Guidelines as written above will disqualify the hunter from the drawing.
- The drawing for the Axis Trophy hunt will be on the last hunting day of the season.
- The winning Axis Trophy Hunt will take place between Oct 2022 and the end of the calendar year unless otherwise coordinated with the hunting supervisor.

Acknowledgement and receipt:

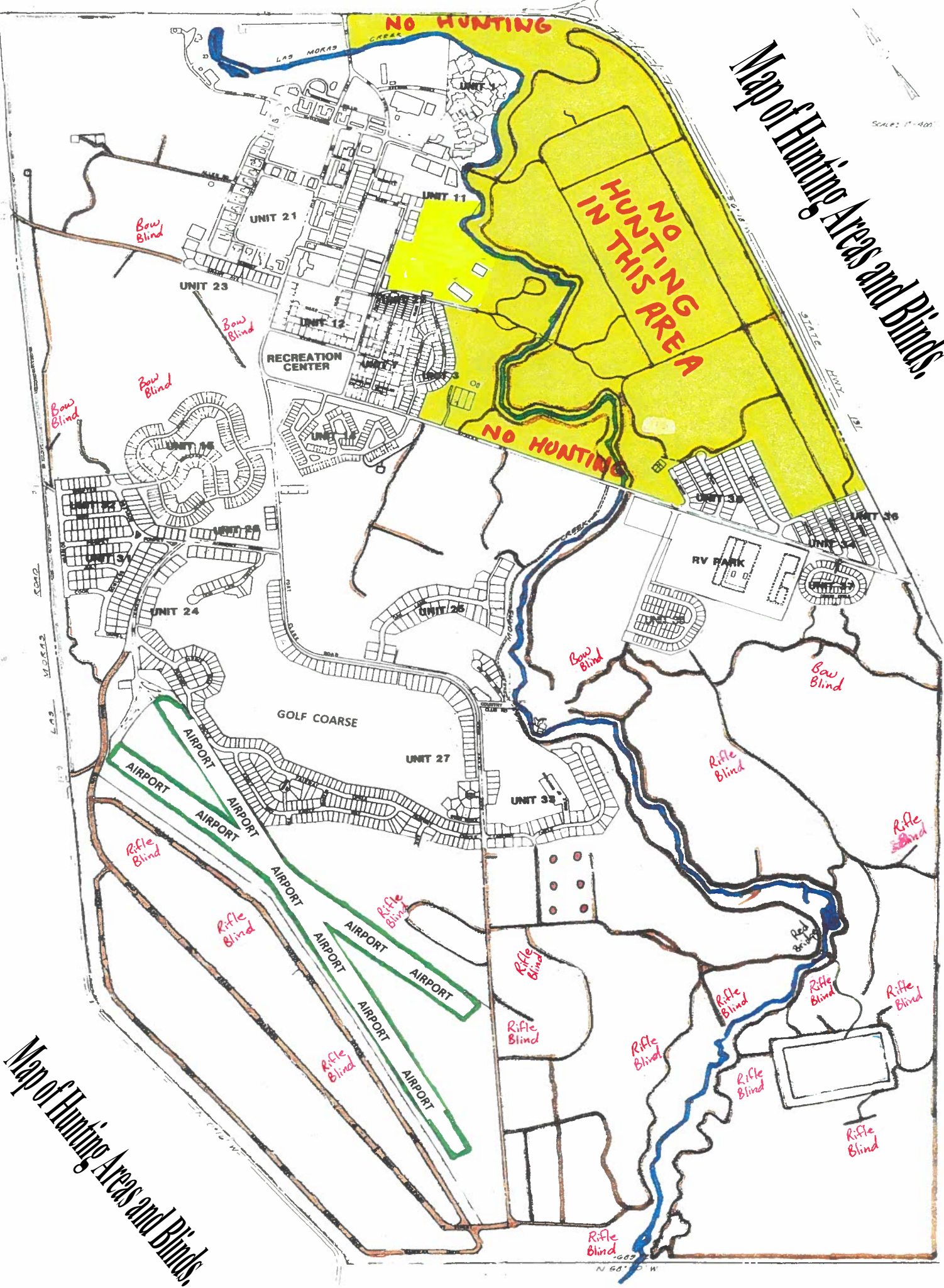
By signing below, I acknowledge reading and understanding the 2021-2022 FCSA Hunting Rules and Guidelines, and understand and agree to follow all the above Rules and Guidelines as given to me.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Map of Hunting Areas and Blinds

Scale: 1" = 400'



Map of Hunting Areas and Blinds

N 68° 15' W